वर्षों के किसी समूह में हुये परिवर्तनों के द्वारा।

(ख) मूल्य वृद्धि को रोकने के लिये सरकार द्वारा किये गये प्रमुख उपायों में, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के द्वारा खाद्यान्नों के वितरण को बढ़ाना, अतिरिक्त बाजार व्यवस्था कर सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को सुदृढ़ करना, दालों, खाद्य तेलों और चीनी जैसी आवश्यक वस्तुओं का आयात करना, सरकारी व्यय में भारी किफायत करना, अर्थ-व्यवस्था में नकदी आरक्षण अनुपात और सांविधिक नकदी अनुपात को बढ़ाकर नकदी बाहुल्य को समाप्त करना, ऋण पर चयनात्मक तरीके से नियंत्रण करना और जमाखोरों तथा मुनाफाखोरों के विरुद्ध तेजी से कार्रवाई करना शामिल है। तत्काल कार्यवाई सुलभ करने के लिए मूल्यों पर विभिन्न स्तरों पर कड़ी निगरानी रखी जा रही है।

Rising trend in the prices ot Raw Cotton

*15. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIR-LA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the textile mills, particularly by the textile mills in the Northern region, due to high prices of raw cotton;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise in the prices of raw cotton since 1986;

(c) what is the percentage of decline in the production by the textile mills due to increasing price trend of raw cotton; and

(d) what measures have been taken/ are proposed to be taken by Government to make available raw cotton adequately at a reasonable price to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As compared to the prices of col-ton in December, 1986 the prices of cotton on December 1987 were higher by laboat 56.

(c) There was no decline in the pro duction of cotton yarn and cotton mill cloth during April-November, 1987, as compared to the corresponding period of 1986.

(d) With a view to arresting the prices of cotton and to ensure the availability o|f cotton, Government have suspended exports of staple cotton since July 1987. In addition, Government have permitted import of cotton on Advanced Licensing basis against export of cotton yam, cot ton fabrics and madc-ups.

Seizure of Gold

*16. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of gold seized during the last three years, year-wise and till December during 1987-88 alongwith its value;

(b) how this gold was disposed of;

(c) whether Government are aware of the rising prices of gold and silver in the open market;

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) what are the main factors responsible for the steep rise in the prices of gold and silver?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA); (a) The quantity and value of gold seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, during the last three financial years and in 1987-88 (till December) are as follows:—

Period	Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1984-85	1110.9	21.9
1985-86 .	2500.6	51.4
1986-87 .	2287.8	52.8
1987-88 . (upto December)	1478-9	45.8

(b) As per the prescribed mode of disposal, confiscated gold is deposited in the Government of India Mint.

(c) Government is aware of the rising prices of gold and silver.

(d) Gold and silver are not essential commodities. Government has ot, therefore, found it necessary, to regulate the prices of these metals.

(e) The factors responsible for the rise in prices of gold and silver generally are:—

1. Seasonal demand on account of marriages, etc.
2. Shortage of ready-stock.
3. Effective anti-smuggling measures.

However, in respect of gold, the increase in price can also be attributed to:—

1. Higher overseas prices of gold
2. The fall in the value of Dollar
3. Fall in contraband arrivals due to effective checks.

Prices of both these metals are highly sensitive to speculations.

Pension cases of Freedom Fighters from Bihar

*17. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA; Will Hie Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of pension cases of freedom fighters from Bihar pending with his Ministry (category-wise) as on 31st December, 1987;

(b) what is the number of such cases which have been pending for more than one year, two years and three years and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken for their early disposal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) to (c) As a result of a special drive conducted during July-August, 1986, all pending cases from Bihar excepting those relating to participation in Arya Samaj Movement in Hyderabad were disposed of and Pension sanctioned where acceptable evidence was produced by the applicants.

194 cases of participation *in* Arya Samaj Movement are pending as on 31.12.1987. These cases are pending for less than 2 years. A Non-Officials Screening Committee has been set up to scrutinise cases pertaining to the Arya Samaj Movement.

Effect of dependence on non-resident Indians

*18. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.-

(a) whether increasing dependence on NRIs has resulted in fall in exchange assets in real terms; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs noj arise.

National Integration Council

*19. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of members of the National Integration Council &t present;

(b) whether Government have received representations to reconstitute the Coon-cil to make it more representative in character land broad-based; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?